THE MARSUPIALS OF QUEENSLAND.

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Owing to the fact that settlement in the southern parts of Australia preceded the occupation of our northern areas, it is not surprising that the majority of more recent additions to our fauna have come from Queensland, the Northern Territory and islands, and the northern parts of West Australia. In 1912 the late Charles Hedley stated in an address to the Linnean Society of London: "In Australia marsupials and monotremes are least developed in the North; proceeding southwards more groups successively appear till ultimately Tasmania has, as Professor Spencer expressed it, a condensation of most that is noteworthy in the Australian region."[1] This was a surprising statement, even in 1912, especially in view of the rich fossil marsupial fauna of the mainland.

In commenting on the statements made by exponents of the Antarctic theory, I pointed out in a previous paper[2] that, with the exception of the rare *Gymnobelideus*, there is not a genus of living marsupials that is unrepresented in either the Torresian or Eyresian (Eremian) sub-regions. Although no striking discoveries have been made since 1924, the additions recorded to our list of marsupials strengthen my criticism. It is not necessary to traverse the diverse views expressed as to the origin of our marsupials dealt with in another paper.[3] Neither do I wish to lay stress on the present distribution of our marsupials as affording definite evidence as to their northern or southern entrance into this continent in the remote past. But if the facts of present-day and recent distribution have any value it is obvious that the evidence yielded is opposed to the Antarctic theory.

The marsupials of Australia comprise so many distinctive genera that it seems quite logical to suggest that their evolution has largely taken place within our own region. Although the palæontological evidence is incomplete, it is now obvious that our fossil marsupials were even more distinctively Australian than those of to-day. Such genera as *Diprotodon*, *Nototherium*, *Euryzygoma*, *Phascolonus*, *Sthenurus*, *Palorchestes*, *Procoptodon*, and *Thylacoleo* are specialised marsupials with no known near relatives outside of the Australian region. No serious attempt has yet been made to derive these extinct species from any known forms in South America, even though the assumptions of the

* The substance of this paper was read before Section D (Zoology) at the Brisbane meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, 1930.

[1] 1912: C. Hedley, Pr. Linn. Soc., London, 124th session, p. 84.

[2] 1924: H. A. Longman, Rep. A.A.A.S., vol. 17, p. 362.

[3] 1924: H. A. Longman, Mem. Qld. Mus. vol. viii, pp. 1-15.

Wegener hypothesis have been invoked in order to demonstrate the possibility of transit for the two or three living marsupials in the two continents which are considered by some authorities to be lineally related.

These remarks are prefatory to a list of species and certain subspecies of present-day marsupials, comprising over ninety names. Much new knowledge has been gained through the material collected for the British Museum, mainly through Captain (now Sir Hubert) Wilkins, which was worked up by that rare enthusiast the late Oldfield Thomas. Valuable material was also obtained by Mr. H. C. Raven for the American Museum of Natural History, New York, following the visit to Australia of Professor W. K. Gregory. Although excellent work has also been done by such Australians as E. Le G. Troughton and A. S. Le Souef, and by Professor F. Wood-Jones, we have to admit, with regret, that our efforts have been somewhat limited in comparison. Fortunately, however, representatives of most of this new material have been lodged in the Queensland Museum.

The multiplicity of genera in recent years is another interesting development. The late Allan McCulloch once expressed the opinion that there was a danger, if some enthusiasts had their way, of a distinct genus being created for every species. Fortunately the entomologists, whose species are legion, will prevent this from being carried out. Some ornithologists, however, have certainly done their best, or worst, in this direction.

In earlier years we included all the "native cats" in one genus, but R. I. Pocock has recently established four genera for the four best-known Australian species of *Dasyurus* (1926).[4] Time alone will prove whether systematists generally will adopt this principle, and there is certainly much to be said for the generic separation of *D. maculatus* from *D. hallucatus*, but this leads naturally to the establishment of the other genera and so the splitting goes on. Paul Matschie, of Berlin, has also proposed new genera, and several subgenera, including two subgenera for *Dasyurus* in 1916,[5] antedating Pocock, but he deals mainly with Papuan species.

The genus *Macropus* is now restricted by some authors to the kangaroos, large wallabies being placed in *Wallabia* and small wallabies in *Thylogale*, but when recent fossil forms are also considered there are grave difficulties in adopting this nomenclature.

It is of interest to note that during the last ten years no less than ten new species of *Petrogale* (Rock Wallabies) have been described, two by A. S. Le Souef and eight by Oldfield Thomas. These form an interesting parallel to the ten subspecies of Wallaroos that have been described, although some of the Rock Wallabies seem very distinct, doubtless through lengthy isolation. The creation of subspecies in several genera has been an outstanding feature of the more recent work.

[4] 1926: R. I. Pocock, P.Z.S., p. 1082.

[5] 1916: P. Matschie, Mitt. Zool. Mus., Berlin, Bd. 8, Heft 2.

Wood-Jones considers that the primitive Australian Marsupials were polyprotodont and didactylous, and that the diprotodont group arose as a specialisation in the syndactylous section. He therefore uses the Sub-Orders Didactyla and Syndactyla in preference to Polyprotodontia and Diprotodontia.[6] Wood-Jones's classification appears to reflect more correctly than the terms in general use the phylogenetic development of our marsupials.

In view of the distinction between our phalangers and the true opossums of America, the name possum, by which our species are most commonly known, has been deliberately adopted in this list.

As descriptions of the older species are readily obtained in Oldfield Thomas's Catalogue of the Marsupialia (British Museum, 1888), only references to recent literature are given.

LIST OF QUEENSLAND PRESENT-DAY MARSUPIALS.

Family MACROPODIDÆ.

Macropus giganteus (Zimmerman). Great Grey Kangaroo. Queensland, including Stradbroke Island.

Macropus melanops Gould. Black-faced Kangaroo.

A. S. Le Souef (Austr. Zool. iii, 1923, p. 146) considers this as specifically distinct from *M. giganteus.*

Macropus robustus Gould. Wallaroo.

Pending a revision of the Wallaroos none of the ten subspecies recorded are listed here.

Macropus rufus (Desmarest). Red Kangaroo. Western Queensland.

Macropus rufus dissimulatus Rothschild (1905). Western Queensland.

Mr. J. Edgar Young obtained two skins of this subspecies from the St. George district. It was described by Rothschild in Nov. Zool., xii, p. 508.

Macropus agilis (Gould). Coast or Agile Wallaby. Eastern Queensland; extends as far south as Stradbroke Island.

Macropus ruficollis (Desmarest). Red-necked Wallaby. Southern Queensland; extends as far north as the Burnett and Upper Dawson. H. H. Finlayson, of Adelaide, who has placed on record many observations on this wallaby (Trans. Roy. Soc. South Aus., liv, 1930, pp. 47-56, plates i-iii), collected specimens from the Upper Dawson.

Macropus ualabatus (Lesson & Garnier). Swamp or Black-tailed Wallaby. South-eastern Queensland.

[6] 1923: Wood-Jones, The Mammals of South Australia, part i., p. 83.

Macropus ualabatus apicalis (Gunther). Type locality: Cape Grafton, North Queensland.

Macropus ualabatus ingrami Thomas & Dollman. Type locality: Inkerman, North Queensland. (P.Z.S. 1908, p. 788, plate xlii).

Macropus welsbyi Longman. Red Stradbroke Island Wallaby. South-east Queensland.

This handsome wallaby was described in 1922 (Mem. Qld. Mus., vii, p. 298). An additional specimen was obtained by H. G. Barnard in 1927.

Macropus parryi Bennett. Pretty-face or Whip-tail Wallaby.

Macropus dorsalis (Gray). Scrub or Black-striped Wallaby.

This appears to be the most common wallaby in Queensland, and in some districts it is regarded as a pest.

Macropus coxeni (Gray). Coxen's Wallaby. Cape York.

Macropus stigmaticus (Gould). Branded Wallaby. North-eastern Queensland.

Macropus wilcoxi (McCoy). Red-legged Wallaby. Southern Queensland.

Macropus thetidis (Lesson). Pademelon Wallaby. South-eastern Queensland.

Macropus bedfordi Thomas.

Oldfield Thomas described this wallaby (P.Z.S., 1900, p. 112) from a single skin, presented by the Duke of Bedford. The animal had been brought alive "from Queensland or North Australia." It is allied to *M. eugenii*.

Petrogale xanthopus Gray. Yellow-footed Rock Wallaby. Western Queensland.

Petrogale penicillata Gray. Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby. South-eastern Queensland.

Petrogale assimilis Ramsay. Allied Rock Wallaby. Type locality: Palm Island, North-eastern Queensland.

Petrogale godmani Thomas (1923). Godman's Rock Wallaby. Type locality: Black Mountain, near Cooktown, North Queensland.

Petrogale purpureicollis Le Soeuf (1924). Purple-necked Rock Wallaby. Type locality: Dajarra, North-western Queensland. (Austr. Zool., iii, p. 274.)

Petrogale celeris Le Soeuf (1924). "Active Rock Wallaby." Type locality: Terachy Station, Adavale, South-western Queensland.

Petrogale inornata Gould. Plain Rock Wallaby. Northern Queensland.

According to Stokes (Discoveries in Australia, vol. i, p. 336, 1846), the type locality is Cape Upstart, near Bowen.

Petrogale herberti Thomas (1926). Herbert's Rock Wallaby. Type locality: Eidsvold, Eastern Queensland.

Petrogale puella Thomas (1926). Little Rock Wallaby. Type locality: Glendower Station, Flinders River, North-western Queensland.

Dendrolagus lumholtzi Collett. Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo. North-eastern Queensland.

Dendrolagus lumholtzi fulvus De Vis. Tawny Tree Kangaroo. Herberton, North Queensland.

Described in 1887 by De Vis as a distinct species (Pr. Roy. Soc. Qld., iv, p. 132).

Dendrolagus bennettianus De Vis. Bennett's Tree Kangaroo. Bloomfield River, North Queensland.

A coloured plate of this species is given in P.Z.S., 1894, Plate XLVI.

Onychogale frænata (Gould). Bridled Nail-tailed Wallaby. South-western Queensland.

A. S. Le Soeuf (Austr. Zool., vol. 3, 1923, p. 110) considers this species to be on the verge of extinction, but it is not uncommon in some parts of Southern Queensland, and its pelts were frequently seen in the sales two or three years ago under the name of "pademelon." It is now a protected species.

Lagorchestes conspicillatus pallidior Thomas. Queensland Hare Wallaby. Northern Queensland.

Sometimes called the "Grass Rat" by trappers. The light-coloured Queensland forms were given subspecific rank by Oldfield Thomas in 1908.

Subfamily POTORINÆ.

Æpyprymnus rufescens (Gray). Rufous Rat-kangaroo. Eastern Queensland.

Bettongia gaimardi (Desmarest). Gaimard's Rat-kangaroo. Southern Queensland.

Potorous tridactylus (Kerr). Dark Rat-kangaroo. Southern Queensland.

Subfamily HYPSIPRYMNODONTINÆ.

Hypsiprymnodon moschatus Ramsay. Musk Rat Kangaroo. North-eastern Queensland.

In the Cairns district this is sometimes called the "Blaek Bandicoot."

Family PHALANGERIDÆ.

Acrobates pygmæus (Shaw). Feather-tail or Pygmy Flying Possum.

This dainty little marsupial lives in holes in gum-trees which it lines with leaves. It is widely distributed in Queensland.

Dromicia (Eudromicia) macrura Mjöberg. Queensland Dormouse-possum. Atherton Tableland, Queensland.

Mjöberg (Kungl. Sven. Vetenskapsakad Hlgr., Bd. 52, 1915, p. 19) separated *lepida, caudata,* and *macrura* from *Dromicia* and established the genus *Eudromicia.* "Dromicia frontalis" De Vis (Pr. Linn. Soc. N.S.W. (2), vol. 1, p. 1134) was founded on immature specimens which are apparently referable to *Acrobates pygmæus.*

Dactylopsila picata Thomas. Queensland Striped Possum. North Queensland.

In 1908 Thomas separated the Queensland forms from the Papuan *D. trivirgata* under the above name. According to Lönnberg and Mjöberg (1915) the Striped Possum is found as far south as Millaa Millaa.

Petaurus australis reginæ Thomas. Yellow-bellied Flying Phalanger.

The Queensland forms were designated as *Petaurus australis reginæ* by Thomas in 1923.

Petaurus sciureus (Shaw). "Sugar Squirrel." Eastern Queensland.

Includes *Belideus gracilis* De Vis (1882) from "north of Cardwell," North Queensland.

Petaurus breviceps Thomas. Lesser Flying Phalanger. Eastern Queensland.

Matschie (*loc. cit.*) places this in a subgenus *Petaurella.*

Petaurus breviceps longicaudatus Longman.

In 1924 the writer described this subspecies from the Mapoon Mission Station, Gulf of Carpentaria (Pr. Roy. Soc. Qld., xxxvi, p. ix). These phalangers are most nearly related to *Petaurus ariel* Gould from Port Essington, included by Thomas (Brit. Mus. Catal.) in the synonymy of *P. breviceps typicus.*

Petauroides volans incanus Thomas. Large Flying Phalanger. South-eastern Queensland.

Petauroides volans armillatus Thomas. Type locality: Coomooboolaroo, East-Central Queensland.

These two subspecies were described by Thomas in 1923 (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (9), xi, p. 247–8).

Petauroides volans minor Collett. Type locality: Herbert Vale, North Queensland.

Pseudochirus laniginosus (Gould). Common Ring-tailed Possum. Southern Queensland.

Four subgenera have been described for the Australian and Papuan Pseudochiri by Matschie and Thomas, but the names are not introduced here.

Pseudochirus laniginosus oralis Thomas (1926). Type locality: Bloomfield, East-central Queensland.

Pseudochirus laniginosus incanens Thomas (1923). Type locality: Vine Creek, Ravenshoe, North Queensland.

Pseudochirus rubidus Troughton & Le Soeuf. Bunya Mountains. Ring-tailed Possum.

In 1929 Troughton & Le Soeuf described a specimen from the Bunya Mountains, South Queensland, under the above name (Rec. Aus. Mus., vol xvii, pp. 291-296, plate xlv).

Pseudochirus herbertensis Collett. Herbert River Ring-tail Possum. North Queensland.

Pseudochirus herbertensis colletti Waite. Collett's Ring-tail Possum. Cairns district, North Queensland.

This well-marked subspecies can be readily separated by the smooth prehensile surface of the tail.

(**Pseudochirus dahli** Collett, from the Mary River, Arnhem Land, has been recorded in error by A. S. Le Soeuf (The Wild Animals of Australasia, p. 268), owing to confusion with the Mary River, Queensland.)

Pseudochirus archeri Collett. Archer's Ring-tail Possum or Toolah. Cardwell, Cairns district, North Queensland.

Pseudochirus lemuroides Collett. Sombre Ring-tail Possum. North-east Queensland.

Pseudochirus cervinus Longman (1915). Fawn Ring-tail Possum. Atherton Tableland, North Queensland (Mem. Qld. Mus., iii, p. 22).

Trichosurus vulpecula (Kerr). Common or Silver-grey Possum.

Trichosurus vulpecula johnstonii (Ramsay). Type locality: Bellenden-Ker Range, North Queensland.

This coppery form, which was designated by Ramsay as specifically distinct, is at least a well-marked subspecies.

Trichosurus vulpecula mesurus Thomas (1926). Type locality: Inkerman, North Queensland.

Trichosurus vulpecula eburacensis Lönnberg (1915). Type locality: Between Coleman and Mitchell Rivers, Cape York Peninsula.

This subspecies was described by Lönnberg in 1915 (Kungl. Sv. vet. Akad. Hlgr., Bd. 52, p. 9).

Trichosurus caninus (Ogilby). "Scrub" or Short-eared Possum. Eastern Queensland.

Trichosurus caninus nigrans Le Soeuf. Black Short-eared Possum. Coastal "scrubs" of South Queensland and New South Wales.

Described in Australian Zoologist, 1916, i. p. 64.

Phalanger (Ceonyx) maculatus Geoffroy. Spotted Cuscus. Cape York, Queensland.

Possibly the Cape York forms should be distinguished from the non-Australian specimens by the use of Gould's term *nudicaudata* (1849). In 1918 Alexander established the genus *Wyulda* for the Cuscus from North-west Australia, with the specific name *squamicaudata*.

Family PHASCOLARCTIDÆ.

Phascolarctos cinereus adustus Thomas. Koala or Native Bear.

In 1923 Oldfield Thomas separated the Queensland forms from the New South Wales and Victorian koalas under the name *Phascolarctos cinereus adustus* (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (9), xi, p. 246). There are no records of the occurrence of koalas farther north than Townsville.

Family PHASCOLOMYIDÆ.

Phascolomys mitchelli Owen. Naked-nosed Wombat. South-eastern Queensland.

According to Mathews and Iredale (Vict. Nat., xxix, 1912, p. 14), Perry's "Opossum hirsutum" was applied to the New South Wales wombat, which would give *hirsutum* (1811) priority over Owen's name.

Phascolomys gillespiei De Vis (1900). Queensland Hairy-nosed Wombat. Type locality: Moonie River, South-western Queensland (Ann. Qld. Mus., No. 5, pp. 14-16, Plates ix-x).

Family DASYURIDÆ.

Dasyurus maculatus (Kerr). "Tiger Cat" or "Spotted-tailed Native Cat." Eastern Queensland.

Large specimens of this marsupial may attain 3 feet 6 inches in total length. Probably most of the stories of a fierce new carnivorous animal are based on unusually large "Tiger Cats." A. S. Le Souef (Wild Animals of Australasia, pp. 329–332) reprints several references to a large "Striped Marsupial Cat" of the Cape York Peninsula, which is presumably new, but which has never been collected.

Dasyurus hallucatus Gould. Northern Native Cat. North Queensland.

Dasyurus hallucatus predator Thomas. Cape York, Queensland.

This subspecies was described by Thomas in 1926 (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (9), xviii, p. 543).

Dasyurus gracilis Ramsay.

This species, which was described by Ramsay in 1888 from a single specimen obtained in the Bellenden-Ker Range, is unrepresented in our collections.

Dasyurus geoffroyi Gould. Geoffroy's Native Cat.

Two specimens are listed in our series without precise localities.

Dasyurus viverrinus (Shaw). Common Native Cat.

Although this species is represented in our old collections, no precise localities are indicated.

Phascogale penicillata (Shaw). Brush-tailed Pouched Rat. Queensland.

Phascogale minutissima (Gould). Pygmy Pouched Mouse. Central and Southern Queensland.

Phascogale apicalis Gray. Freckled Pouched Mouse. Queensland.

Phascogale flavipes Waterhouse. Yellow-footed Pouched Mouse. Southern Queensland.

Phascogale flavipes adusta Thomas (1923). Type locality: Ravenshoe, North Queensland.

Phascogale godmani Thomas (1923). Type locality: Ravenshoe, North Queensland.

Planigale ingrami (Thomas) 1906.

A. S. Le Soeuf records this tiny marsupial from near Burketown, North Queensland (Austr. Zool., 1930, vi, p. 110).

Planigale ingrami brunneus Troughton. Type locality: Wyangerie, Flinders River, North-western Queensland (F. L. Berney).

The genus *Planigale* was established by Troughton in 1928 (Records Austr. Mus., xvi, p. 282), the "marked flattening of the upper surface of the skull" being the distinctive feature.

Sminthopsis virginiæ (De Tarragon). Striped-faced Pouched Mouse. East-central Queensland.

A specimen of this rare marsupial, which came from Mackay, was described by the writer in the Qld. Agric. Journal, March 1918, p. 117.

Sminthopsis leucopus (Gray). White-footed Pouched Mouse. Eastern Queensland.

Sminthopsis murina (Waterhouse). Grey Pouched Mouse. Southern Queensland.

Sminthopsis crassicaudata (Gould). Fat-tailed Pouched Mouse. Western Queensland.

Antechinomys laniger (Gould). Jerboa Pouched Mouse. South-western Queensland.

Family PERAMELIDÆ.

Thalacomys lagotis (Reid). Rabbit-Bandicoot. Western Queensland.

Three subspecies have been described. Additional material is required before the specimens from Western Queensland can be definitely placed, but they appear to be most closely related to Spencer's *T. minor*. A brief account of a living specimen by the writer appears in the Queensland Naturalist, vol. iii, 1922, p. 52.

Perameles nasuta Geoffroy. Long-nosed Bandicoot. Southern Queensland.

Perameles nasuta pallescens Thomas. Type locality: Vine Creek, Ravenshoe, North Queensland. Described in 1923 (Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (9), xi, p. 173).

Isoodon obesulus (Shaw). Short-nosed Bandicoot. Southern Queensland.

Isoodon macrurus (Gould). Northern Bandicoot.

This species extends to South-eastern Queensland.

Isoodon torosus (Ramsay). Ramsay's Bandicoot. Type locality: Near Cooktown, North Queensland.

This is evidently distinct from *I. macrurus*.

Isoodon peninsulæ Thomas. Cape York Bandicoot. Northern Cape York.

Chœropus castanotis (Gray). Pig-footed Bandicoot. Western Queensland.

We have no Queensland specimens in our collection, but Wood-Jones (Mammals of South Australia, 1924, pt. ii, p. 171) records its occurrence in the far west of this State.